

forms of voluntary prepaid medical care and to assess them at their true value and their comparative status with C.P.S.

The functioning of this committee in the coming year will mark another step forward in the search for truth in the important field of voluntary prepaid medical care. The American public, and especially the California public, has made its wishes crystal-clear in demanding that *some* system of health in-

surance be available. If the medical profession is to maintain its leadership in properly appraising and meeting the public interest, an objective review of the current situation is bound to be helpful.

The new committee has a big job cut out for it. In prospect, it looks as though the committee can and will handle its work in capable fashion and will come up next year with ideas which will be beneficial to all concerned, including physicians.



A.M.A. 1951 Meeting

Atlantic City, with its huge exhibit hall and rows of large boardwalk hotels, last month played host to the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, a meeting which was marked for its quiet and calm. In earlier years some A.M.A. sessions have covered some bitterly controversial subjects in the policy-making House of Delegates. In contrast, the 1951 meeting accomplished its business with a minimum of argument and a maximum of speed.

With the close of the session, it appeared that California had carried off at least its share of the honors. Dr. John W. Cline was installed as president of the A.M.A., Dr. Dwight H. Murray was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Mrs. Ralph B. Eusden was elected President-Elect of the national Woman's Auxiliary. On top of that, three Californians were named by their specialty sections as members of the House of Delegates, increasing the California strength in the House to 14 out of 201 members.

Immediately preceding the A.M.A. meeting, the annual session of the American College of Radiology bestowed upon Dr. Lowell S. Goin, a former C.M.A. president, its coveted Gold Medal for outstanding achievement in the field of radiology. Doctor Goin is the first recipient of this award since 1941 and the seventh in the history of the College. As such he follows in the footsteps of Mme. Curie and other renowned figures in the development of radiology.

Tackling the question of the dual system of membership and fellowship in the A.M.A., the House of Delegates voted to put over final consideration until

the interim session next December. This confusing situation should be straightened out at the earliest possible moment; in the light of existing policies of the A.M.A. in collecting annual dues from its members, the classification of fellowships seems to be an unneeded appendage which could easily and profitably be excised. The business offices of every medical society would favor such a move, as well as the individual members who are caught up in the tangle of duplication of effort without tangible benefit.

The House of Delegates took positive action on the question of hospital accreditation, by approving the action of the Board of Trustees of agreeing to participate in a program in which the official accrediting body would be composed of representatives of the A.M.A., the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Physicians and the American Hospital Association. Hospital inspection under this program would be rotated among the representatives of the several groups.

Next December's meeting of the A.M.A., the clinical session, will be held in Los Angeles, which then for the first time will have a chance to play host to the national body. The 1954 Annual Session will be held in San Francisco, a decision which was unanimously voted.

It may be true, as some wag stated, that in ten years nobody will even know that the A.M.A. held a meeting in 1951; on the other hand, the scientific advances of the meeting bear tribute to medicine's ever-progressive attitude, even though the business side of the meeting may have been without great incident.